



*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1-16-07*****

From the Office of the Director of Health

Special Needs Shelters Consolidated
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As of this afternoon, the two special needs shelters have been consolidated. Everyone has been moved to the McDonald Arena shelter, and the Drury University shelter is no longer accepting clients. Health department staff are now working with clients on an exit strategy to return people to their homes once they have electricity and heat.

Staff will be visiting all food service establishments to ensure food is safe and wholesome. They visited 158 establishments today. Of those, 31 were still closed due to lack of electricity. The general public may call (417) 864-1424 if they have concerns or a complaint about an establishment.

Water testing will be provided to Greene County residents at no cost, but will need to be collected by residents and delivered to the health department laboratory.

To collect a water sample—

1. Remove any aeration devices or screens from faucet.
2. Open the tap fully and allow the water to run at high stream for 2-3 minutes.
3. Turn the water stream down and fill a sterile container without splashing.
4. Seal the sterile container tightly.
5. Bring the container to the health department laboratory, located at 227 E Chestnut Expressway, during normal business hours Monday through Thursday and Fridays before 2:00 pm.

For more information on water testing, call (417) 864-1673.

Some areas of the county are still under a boil water order. To ensure water is safe to drink or use in cooking, strain the water to remove any bulk impurities. Bring the water to a full rolling boil and boil for one full minute. Allow water to cool before drinking it.

The immunization center will be closed until January 22nd. If you had an appointment already scheduled for this week, please call (417) 874-1220 after January 22nd to reschedule.

The Springfield Animal Shelter will remain open to the public as long as the electricity stays on. To check the status of the shelter before visiting, please call (417) 864-1126. Animal control officers will continue to respond to calls in both the city and the county.

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